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PATENT  
Docket No.: MO06007C1  
10/672,730

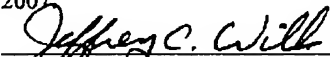
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Rod Ross et al. DOCKET NO.: MO06002USU  
SERIAL NO.: 10/672,730 GROUP ART UNIT: 3734  
DATE FILED: September 25, 2003 EXAMINER: Nguyen, Victor X.  
CONFIRMATION NO.: 9438  
CUSTOMER NO. 34408

TITLE: CUTTING BLADE ASSEMBLY FOR A MICROKERATOME

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300, on January 22, 2007.

  
Jeffrey C. Wilk

January 22, 2007

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED AUGUST 22, 2006

The present amendment responds to the Non-Final Office Action mailed August 22, 2006, for which a shortened statutory period for reply expired on November 22, 2006. Applicants submit herewith a Petition for Extension of Time with the appropriate fee for extending the time to reply to January 22, 2007. Accordingly, this Response is believed to have been timely filed.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 9-11, 13, 33-36, and 41 are pending in the present Patent Application, claims 6-8, 14, 15, and 37-40 having been withdrawn by the Amendment filed August 16, 2006.

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In the Non-Final Office Action mailed August 22, 2006, the Examiner has rejected 2, 3, 5, 9-11, 13, 33-36, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In response, Applicants have traversed these rejections, amended claim 11, and added two new claims. No new matter has been added by these Amendments. Please reconsider the above-identified Patent Application in view of the Amendments and the Remarks contained below.